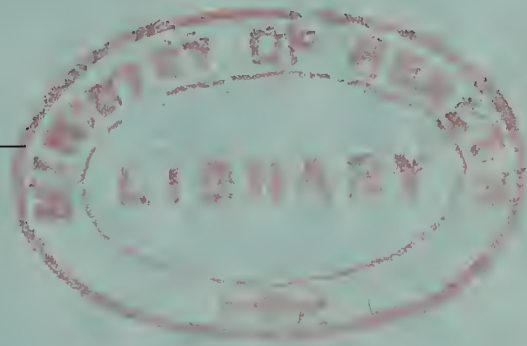


Wilmslow Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

WILMSLOW.

9th August, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of of the Wilmslow
Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. EVANS AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to present herewith my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1945, together with that of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The report deals mainly with this particular year, though in certain matters which had to be withheld during war time, e.g. sewerage extensions for military purposes, it refers to previous years.

The year saw the end of hostilities but the effects were still with us during the rest of the year, especially there was the difficulty in replacing the additional Sanitary Inspector, which meant that much routine work had to be in abeyance.

The evacuees returned home and this eased certain parts of the work, though there was a balancing increase due to the winding up of various activities connected with them.

There has been no significant variation in the vital statistics, for the sixth consecutive year there has been no maternal death. Apart from measles there was a low incidence of infectious disease.

I regret that the hope, expressed in my opening letter to the report for 1944, that the cessation of hostilities would see an improvement in the cleanliness of the milk supply, has not been fulfilled.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to my staff for the work done and to other officials of the council for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

DAVID G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1945

Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

D. G. ANDERSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

G. H. LANCASTER, CERT.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. *

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

L. N. BRUNSKILL, CERT.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. *
(Resigned February, 1945)

T. B. TREMETHICK, CERT. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
(Appointed October, 1945).

*Hold the special diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute for the inspection of meat and other foods.

Clerical :

Medical Officer's Office : Miss E. M. Wood (a)

Sanitary Inspector's Office : *Mrs. E. Palmer (b)

(a) Temporary for Miss N. King, serving in H.M. Forces.

(b) Temporary for Miss M. Fletcher, serving in H.M. Forces.

* Resigned and replaced by Mrs. G. Bennett (August, 1945).

Medical Officer's Office :

Town Hall, Bruntwood, Cheadle, Cheshire.

(Tel. : GATley 3241)

Sanitary Inspector's Office :

Green Hall, Wilmslow.

(Tel. : Wilmslow 2275)

Duties of Public Health Staff :—

The Medical Officer of Health is restricted from private practice and the appointment is a joint one for this district and the Urban Districts of Cheadle and Gatley, and Alderley Edge. He is clinical medical officer to the child welfare centres by arrangement with the Cheshire County Council.

Both Sanitary Inspectors are full-time officials.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is responsible for House Refuse Removal and Disposal, including salvage, and is appointed Inspector under the Petroleum Acts, and Rodent Officer.

SECTION A : STATISTICS OF THE AREA

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Area (in acres)	7,705	7,705	7,705	7,705	7,705	7,705	7,705
Registrar General's Estimate of mid-year population ..	14,920	16,380	16,130	15,680	15,160	15,080	14,860

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births —Total	186	188	203	219	219	239	202
Legitimate	181	180	191	211	208	231	190
Illegitimate	5	8	12	8	11	8	12

Birth rate per 1,000 population :

Wilmslow	12.5	11.5	12.6	14.0	14.5	15.8	13.6
England and Wales ..	15.0	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1

Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births :

Wilmslow	26.9	42.6	59.1	36.6	50.2	33.3	59.4
------------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Still Births —Total	13	11	6	4	5	9	8
Legitimate	13	11	6	4	5	8	8
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Rate per 1,000 population :

Wilmslow	0.87	0.67	0.37	0.26	0.33	0.60	0.54
England and Wales ..	0.59	0.55	0.51	0.54	0.51	0.50	0.46

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births :

Wilmslow	65.5	55.3	28.7	18.0	22.3	37.7	37.7
------------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Deaths —All Causes	174	176	175	195	152	164	179
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Death rate per 1,000 population :

Wilmslow	11.3 ^c	10.1 ^c	10.85	12.4	10.0	10.9	12.1
England and Wales ..	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4

(c) Corrected by comparability factor.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Other Puerperal Causes ..	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births :

Wilmslow	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
England and Wales ..	2.82	2.16	2.23	2.01	1.84	1.53	1.22

Death of Infants under one year of age :—

Total	4	3	7	18	4	9	8
Legitimate	4	2	7	14	4	8	8
Illegitimate	0	1	0	4	0	1	0

Rate per 1,000 corresponding live births :

Total Wilmslow	22	16	34	82	18	38	40
England and Wales ..	50	55	59	49	49	46	46
Legitimate—Wilmslow ..	22	11	36	66	19	35	42
Illegitimate—Wilmslow ..	0	125	0	500	0	125	0

Deaths from certain special causes :

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Cancer (all ages) ..	27	30	26	26	16	29	24
Measles (all ages) ..	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	0	1	1	2	0	1	2
Influenza (all ages)	2	4	6	1	2	0	0
Pneumonia (all ages)	4	2	3	6	6	6	6
Tuberculosis, Pul- monary (all ages)	3	6	4	4	3	4	3

SECTION B : GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Staff. See beginning of report.

(b) Laboratory facilities.

(c) Ambulance facilities.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

(e) Nursing in the Home.

(f) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

} No changes from
arrangements in
Report for 1943.

SECTION C : SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply :—

The water is supplied by the Stockport Corporation Water Department. The water supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

No bacteriological examinations of the piped water supply have been made by this authority during the year. Weekly samples are taken by the Water Department of the filtered and treated water for bacteriological examination and of the raw water monthly for chemical and bacteriological examination.

There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action.

Where well water has been found to be unfit, and other sources are at present not available, the occupants have been warned to boil all water before it is consumed.

Seventy-three houses are not supplied from the public mains and there are 4,798 houses on the rate books. Three houses are supplied from main standpipes. If the scheme submitted under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, is implemented, every house within a reasonable distance of a public road could be connected to the mains at reasonable cost.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage :—

Between 1939 and 1945 sewers were laid in the R.A.F. Camp, Wilmslow, and the temporary R.A.F. Camps in Stanneylands Road and Sefton Drive. This work was carried out by the Service Department.

Flooding from foul sewers takes place in some cellars in the district — particularly in the Fulshaw area — and a scheme for re-sewering this area has been prepared.

Relief of cellar flooding in Mill Street and Church Street has been achieved by laying a new length of sewer, from opposite the George and Dragon Hotel, to connect with the existing sewer opposite the Parish Church.

The Northern Sewage Works has been extended to take the sewage from Wilmslow Park R.A.F. Camp on the basis of a 5,000 population. This work was carried out by the Council on behalf of the Air Ministry.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal :—

No change.

(d) Sanitary Inspection of the Area :—

The Senior Sanitary Inspector's report is given separately at the end of this report, and is a good record. From February to October there was no additional Sanitary Inspector, hence the lower number of inspections.

(e) Smoke Abatement :—

The Council has joined the Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

(f) Disinfestation :—

Twenty rooms privately owned were treated on account of infestation by cockroaches; none was bug infested. Infestation of Council houses by cockroaches is dealt with by contract.

The amount of scabies has been small, only five households coming under notice during the year. Benzyl-benzoate emulsion has been supplied and instruction given. Evacuees were dealt with in a sick bay.

No persons were treated for pediculosis.

SECTION D: HOUSING

Existing Houses :—

Work was almost entirely confined to inspections and action under the Public Health Act.

New Houses : —

At the end of 1945 no houses had been commenced by the Council but roads and sewers on the Meriton Road Site, Handforth, had been completed. The Lacey Green Site was under negotiation.

The Council had approved the erection of 40 temporary houses, 13 at Wallingford Road, Handforth, while the Cumber Lane Site for 27 was approved, subject to the agreement of the Ministry of Health.

No private houses had been completed but licences had been issued.

Private conversions into flats had been approved and similiar schemes were under consideration by the Council.

SECTION E: INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply :—

Details of inspections and samples are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report. The number is fewer but the results are proportionately similar so far as cleanliness is concerned.

The rationalisation of milk deliveries continues and I see no reason to change the views expressed in my last report.

The absence of tubercle bacilli in all samples (55) examined for this organism is satisfactory.

(b) Meat and Other Foods :—

No change in conditions.

(c) Adulteration, etc. :—

This work is undertaken by the County Council and I am indebted to the District Inspector for the following information :—

Year ended 31st December, 1945

	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Samples Reported against</i>
Milks	22	1
Other than milk ..	17	1
	39	2

Milk sample reported against—19.3% deficient in fat. Seller cautioned.

Other sample, whisky—7.6% excess water. Prosecuted. Fined £15 and 10/6 costs.

SECTION F: PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(a) General:—

The following table gives the number of cases of each disease notified during each of the seven years :—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	15	12	10	44	56	39	12
Diphtheria	41	6	2	2	1	6	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) .. .	3	1	4	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
Ophthalmia							
Neonatorum .. .	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	8	2	5	2	9	6	8
Epidemic Meningitis	0	2	2	3	1	2	0
Dysentery	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Food Poisoning .. .	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	4	2	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	1*	53	270	95	124	162	239
Whooping Cough ..	1*	6	132	5	31	69	27
Total	74	84	428	152	224	287	291

* Not notifiable till October, 1939.

The figures for 1944 and 1945 are those after correction of the diagnosis in view of subsequent history, either in hospital or by the attendant medical practitioner. Those for previous years are as notified in the first place.

Of the two cases of diphtheria, both were in an institution and neither had been immunised.

Measles was more prevalent but of a mild type.

None of the other diseases calls for special comment.

(b) Tuberculosis :—

The following table gives the incidence of and mortality from this disease :—

Pulmonary :—	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
New Cases (<i>i.e.</i> , Primary notifications, including armed forces discharges) ..	T. 7	T. 6	T. 6	T. 6	T. 6	T. 6	M. F. T. 2 2 4
Deaths	3	6	4	3	3	4	2 2 4
Non-Pulmonary :—							
New Cases (as above)	3	2	2	2	1	2	0 1 1
Deaths	2	2	3	1	1	1	0 0 0

(c) Laboratory Examinations :—

Diphtheria :			1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Positive	..	..	2	0	0	0	1	2	1
Negative	..	..	60	31	47	13	29	21	14
Virulence Tests :									
Positive	..	..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negative	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haemolytic Streptococci :									
Positive	..	..	0	0	2	1	2	3	1
Negative	..	..	0	1	0	3	4	1	2
Blood Cultures :									
Positive	..	..	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Negative	..	..	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Agglutination :									
Positive	..	..	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Negative	..	..	0	0	4	0	1	1	0
Faeces :									
Positive	..	..	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Negative	..	..	0	0	3	0	0	7	0
Urine :									
Positive	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negative	..	..	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Other examinations :									
Positive	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Negative	..	..	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli :									
Positive	..	..	5	1	5	2	6	7	6
Negative	..	..	16	10	18	15	30	38	33

(d) Diphtheria Immunisation :—

The following table shows the progress of diphtheria immunisation in this district from 1939, when the scheme was commenced, to the end of this year. It is known that there is a very considerable number of children who have been immunised privately.

Age in years
on 31st Dec.
of the
correspond-
ing year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. **WILMSLOW U.D.**

**Persons inoculated each year
from 1939 - 1945.**

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	
0	1	—	2	12	1	1	1	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st December, 1945. 465
1	12	24	64	90	74	109	85	
2	13	39	46	40	22	21	26	
3	11	39	20	30	8	1	14	
4	2	37	10	14	8	1	4	
5	11	45	26	21	3	3	3	Total inoculated aged 5—14 years on 31st December, 1945 979
6	3	47	18	11	4	3	10	
7	8	60	9	16	9	3	11	
8	5	84	3	7	2	3	11	
9	2	67	5	4	1	1	8	
10	4	75	4	5	2	1	1	
11	3	59	1	2	1	3	2	
12	1	68	5	6	1	2	6	
13	—	40	3	2	1	—	3	
14	—	7	1	—	3	—	2	
15 and over	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st Dec. 1945 284
Total each year	76	691	217	261	141	152	190	Grand Total 1939 - 45 1728

(In calculating the totals at the end of 1945 no account is taken
of deaths which may have occurred since immunisation).

Deaths during the year ending December 31st, 1939

Causes of Death						M.	F.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	4	1
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	2
10	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	1	...
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	15	12
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	1	5
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	26	28
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	1	...
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	8	11
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	...
20	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	2
21	Other Respiratory	...	...	...	...	2	...
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	...
23	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	1	...
26	Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	2
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	2
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	2
31	Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	...	3	...
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	2	6
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
34	Other violence	...	...	...	...	3	3
35	Other defined Causes	...	...	...	...	8	3
36	Ill Defined Causes or not known	...	...	...	...	...	...
All Causes						87	87

NOTE.—The numbers on the left refer to the Registrar General's Short List based on the Fourth (1929) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS (1940-45).

No.	Cause of Death	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	3	1	2
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	3	...	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
8	Syphilitic diseases	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1
9	Influenza	2	2	3	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
10	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
11	Acute poliomyelitis & polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Acute infectious encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) Cancer of uterus (F)	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	5	3	1	5	2	1	1	4	3	2	...
15	Cancer of breast	...	3	...	4	...	4	...	1	...	2	...	6
16	Cancer of all other sites	9	10	8	8	8	7	3	9	10	8	7	7
17	Diabetes	...	2	2	...	...	3	...	...	1	1	2	2
18	Intracranial vascular lesions	11	7	6	11	11	12	6	14	9	12	9	7
19	Heart disease	12	23	17	24	18	24	20	28	19	22	20	34
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	6	7	4	5	3	10	3	1	3	6	3	3
21	Bronchitis	8	8	5	11	4	7	3	4	4	6	6	10
22	Pneumonia	...	2	3	...	4	2	4	2	1	5	5	1
23	Other respiratory diseases	3	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	1	1	2	...
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	1
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Other digestive diseases	1	4	1	2	1	4	2	6	2	2	3	3
28	Nephritis	3	3	...	5	7	1	2	4	...	1	3	2
29	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...
30	Other maternal causes	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...
31	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	6	1	2	...	1	...	1	1
32	Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	3	1	...	2	2	2	...	1	1	2	1	2
33	Suicide	2	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...
34	Road traffic accidents	2	...	2	1	1	...	3	1	2	...	2	...
35	Other violent causes	2	2	2	2	2	3	...	2	4	2	1	...
36	All other causes	6	9	10	11	11	15	10	9	6	12	14	11
All causes		84	92	77	98	89	106	64	88	72	92	85	94

Note.—The number given refers to the Registrar General's Short List based on the fifth (1938) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,

Green Hall,

Wilmslow.

July, 1946.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1945

I have the honour to present my report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1945.

The following table shows that 1,183 visits were made to houses and other premises in connection with a variety of matters relating to Public Health.

This figure is considerably less than in previous years, because for the greater part of 1945 I was without the services of an Assistant, which meant that much of the routine work had to be curtailed.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

<i>Nature of Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Housing :—	
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ..	211
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts	281
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	36
Re-inspections under Housing Acts	16
General :—	
Rats and Mice	52
Refuse Collection and Disposal	179
Infectious Disease	77
Water Supply	31
Smoke Observations	9
Petroleum Acts	15
Special Visits	72
Meat and Food Inspection :—	
Slaughterhouses	10
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	27
Wet Fish Shops	4
Fried Fish Shops	4
Other Food Shops	36
Bakehouses	17
Restaurant Kitchens	7
Dairies and Milk Shops	42
Cowsheds	57
	1,183

COMPLAINTS

One hundred and seventy-five complaints were received with reference to the following matters, viz. :—

Defective Conditions	43
Choked Drains	16
Overflowing Cesspools	3
Accumulations of Refuse	8
Defective Dustbins	1
Sanitary Accommodation	8
Overcrowded Conditions	3
Offensive Odours	8
Smoke Nuisances	2
Rat Infestations	15
Verminous Premises	4
Dirty Condition of Food Bins	4
Unsound Food	35
Water Supply	2
Milk—Adulteration and Souring	14
Dirty Milk Bottles and Churns	9
	175

NOTICES SERVED

Arising out of the above inspections, the following notices were served :—

<i>Statute</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
Public Health Act, 1936	84	5
Housing Act, 1936	2	Nil
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	7	Nil
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	57	Nil
Factories Act, 1937	1	Nil
	151	5

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

All the Statutory Notices served during the year were complied with within the permitted time, making it unnecessary to take any legal proceedings.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Infectious Disease :—

The number of visits paid to houses in order to make the necessary enquiries into the outbreak of various infectious diseases

was 77 and the number of rooms where disinfection was considered necessary and carried out by the department was 21.

Verminous Premises.

In a district of this type very few complaints of verminous premises are received but whenever property infested with cockroaches, bugs or other insect pests, is discovered every assistance is given to the occupier or owner to have the property disinfested by the use of gaseous fumigants or liquid insecticides. As the responsibility is upon the owner or occupier a small charge is usually made for any treatment carried out by the Council, but in exceptional circumstances free treatment is given. Although in the course of the year 20 rooms were treated for verminous conditions of various kinds this number included only one house infested by the worst type of pest, namely the bed bug.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Except for certain minor improvements where privies have been converted to earth closets, the number and type of sanitary conveniences in use in the district remains the same, and no appreciable change can be made until certain areas are sewered. The number of sanitary conveniences (other than water closets) was given in the report for 1943.

HOUSING

It was still not possible to take any action during the year to deal with houses which are unfit for human habitation and which should be demolished or reconditioned. Many urgent repairs were carried out to working class houses, but owing to the restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Works, owners were asked only to execute essential repairs.

Towards the end of the year a great deal of time was devoted to making enquiries into the existing conditions of applicants for Council houses, with a view to obtaining the information required by the Council to help them to decide the urgency for the need of a house.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat. Very little slaughtering has taken place in the area during the year. The meat supplies for Wilmslow continue to come from the Manchester abattoirs with the result that 10 private slaughterhouses in use before the war are still closed. There is every indication that meat rationing will continue for some considerable time, in which case slaughtering by individual butchers in their private slaughterhouses is not likely to recommence in the near future. Whether or not private slaughtering will be allowed to return is doubtful, but in any case when meat is decontrolled the

Council may find it an advantage to erect a small abattoir where the slaughtering for the whole of the area can be concentrated and the scattered slaughterhouses closed. It is only by centralised slaughtering that proper supervision and post mortem inspection of all carcases can be carried out in an efficient manner. No emergency slaughtering took place during the year but notification of the slaughter of pigs was given in 21 instances and in every case the carcase was examined before being passed for human consumption. Of the 21 pigs examined, 3 were found to be tubercular and certain parts or organs condemned.

The following table gives the amount of diseased or unsound meat which was detected as the result of inspection or complaints and subsequently destroyed :—

<i>Home Killed</i>							<i>Weight lbs.</i>
Beef	Trimming	..	..	..	..	..	113
Beast	Livers	..	..	..	..	..	35
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Pigs'	Pluck	..	..	..	..	..	8
Pigs'	Heads	..	..	..	..	..	36
Pigs'	Lungs	..	..	..	..	..	2
<i>Imported</i>							
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	320½
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	35

							599½ lbs.

The number of certificates issued to butchers, grocers and other food retailers in respect of various foodstuffs condemned by the Department was 105. The amount of food involved was 39 cwt. 98 lbs., which was much higher than usual owing to the condemnation of a large quantity of potatoes which had been exposed to frost. The amounts condemned were :—

Tinned Goods Condemned :—

							<i>lbs.</i>
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	93
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	11½
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	32½
Soups	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Jam	..	..	..	..	..	..	32½
Cake Mixture	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Mustard	..	..	..	..	..	..	½

							312 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned :—

	<i>cwt.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Potatoes	24	86
Pudding Mixture		8½
Oranges	1	72½
Beef Hash		2
Flour	1	68
Sausage and Sausage Meat		6
Minced Beef		5
Kippers		28
Dried Peas	1	20
Butter		6
Cheese		3½
Sultanas		14
Fish Paste		45
Tripe		47
Fish	1	7
	31	82½

MILK SUPPLY

The number of cowkeepers and dairymen on the register in Wilmslow remains the same, namely :—

Cow-keepers	67
Dairymen	6
Retailers from outside districts	4

I regret to report that it was not possible to devote the time to the supervision of milk production that it should receive, particularly in the warmer months of the year. Because of the lack of the necessary assistance between February and October, the number of visits and the number of samples taken fall considerably below those of recent years.

The regional rationalisation scheme whereby consumers are obliged to take their milk from the retailers who serve their area is still in operation. This scheme was commenced during the war to save labour and petrol, and to this end it has been very successful, but many people are dissatisfied with their supply and they are unable to make a change as the Food Control Committee will not grant changes except on very exceptional grounds.

The producer and retailer both know they cannot lose their customers, and I maintain that as a result there is not the same incentive to keep up the quality of the milk above that of their competitors.

Acting on a joint report prepared by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, the Council made representation to the Ministry of Food requesting they should give consideration to the cessation of the present scheme as early as possible.

The following table gives a summary of the results of the samples taken during 1945 :—

Examination of Milk for Bacterial Count and B. Coli.							
Designation	No. of Samples Taken			Classification			
	From Farms	From Dairies	Total	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory	
Tuberculin Tested ..	—	13	13	7	—	6	
Accredited	22	—	22	12	4	6	
Ungraded	23	—	23	12	3	8	
Total ..	45	13	58	31	7	20	

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS 1936-1938

Pasteurised Milk.

There is one plant in the area where milk is pasteurised by means of the High Temperature Short Time Process. Samples are taken from this plant every month and examined to ascertain whether they comply with the bacteriological standard laid down in the above Orders.

The samples are also submitted to the phosphatase test to prove that the milk has been efficiently heat-treated. In addition to the local plant two firms retail milk of this designation within the area but the process of pasteurising is carried out elsewhere.

Samples of milk taken from the latter are taken in the course of delivery in the district.

The following table shows the results of the various examinations of this grade of milk :—

Pasteurised Milk					
	No. Taken	From Local Dairy		From outside sources	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Bacterial Count ..	31	9	2	11	9
Phosphatase Test ..	31	9	2	13	7

The samples from the local plant proved that it was being worked efficiently, but the samples from outside sources were often unsatisfactory which was due mainly to the lack of certain equipment and the consequent overloading of existing plant, both of which have now been remedied.

Licences. The number of licences issued by this Council in 1945 under the above Orders is as follows :—

Dealer's Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk..	..	3
Dealer's Licence to bottle Tuberculin Tested Milk ..	..	1
Licence to Pasteurise Milk	..	1
Dealer's Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk ..	..	1
Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk ..	..	1

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCULOSIS

It is to be regretted that it was not possible to take at least one sample of milk from every herd in the district for examination for tubercle bacilli owing to shortage of staff, but it is very satisfactory to report that out of 55 samples of milk which were examined no positive results were obtained.

Summary of Samples examined for Tuberculosis

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Tuberculin Tested	7	Nil	7
Accredited	22	Nil	22
Ungraded	23	Nil	23
Pasteurised	3	Nil	3
Totals	55	Nil	55

WATER SUPPLY.

In 1943 a special investigation was made into the water supplies of houses and farms not served by a water main, when it was found that 73 premises out of a total of over 5,000 were still dependent upon wells or springs for their supply of water. The district, considering its size and character, is well supplied with water-mains but there are several lengths of road in outlying and sparsely populated areas where no water-mains are available for the existing properties, and unfortunately some of the wells are giving water which is unfit for drinking purposes.

It was with the object of providing a piped supply to all properties in the district that a Sub-Committee was set up and a scheme prepared with a view to the work being put in hand immediately circumstances permitted. Before this could be done the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, was passed enabling the Minister of Health to make contributions towards the expenses incurred by Local Authorities in providing or improving supplies of water.

As a result of this legislation the Council's scheme has been submitted to both the Minister of Health and the Cheshire County Council with a view to obtaining a grant towards the cost of laying the necessary mains, and this scheme is at present receiving their consideration.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

The Council continue to act as agents of the Cheshire County Council for the purpose of operating the above Act, in respect of non-agricultural land, i.e. dwelling-houses, shops, business premises, etc.

Infestations on agricultural land including farm buildings are dealt with by the rat catcher of the County Council under the control of the County Land Agent. It is thought by many that because the Council employ a rat catcher the responsibility for the destruction of these pests rests with the Local Authority and that the services of this operative are free, whereas the onus of ridding premises of rats and mice is placed upon the occupier, who can either carry out the disinfection himself or enter into a contract with the Council to do the work for an agreed sum.

In the event of the occupier refusing to take one or other of the above courses, the Council has power to enter the premises or land and carry out the treatment necessary to clear the premises, and recover the cost from the occupier.

For some time during the year under review the position of rat catcher was vacant, and when an appointment was made it was agreed, owing to there being insufficient work in Wilmslow, to share his services with the Cheadle and Gatley Urban District Council. All expenses in connection with the scheme are met by the County Council, but every endeavour is made to obtain sufficient contracts to cover the working costs.

During 1945 the Rat Catcher paid 1,450 visits to premises and carried out the following works :—

Number of Premises treated		45
Methods employed—Poisoning	No. of pre-baits laid ..	975
	No. of poison baits laid ..	325
Gassing	No. of points gassed ..	100
Trapping	No. of cases where traps used,	nil
Results Obtained—No. of Bodies found	..	117

Income for Treatment.

The amounts recoverable from occupiers for the above work to the end of the year was £114 15s. 0d.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection. For the collection of house refuse and salvage two vehicles specially designed for refuse collection are used, and each vehicle tows a trailer, in which salvage kept separate from house refuse by the householder is placed. Both house refuse and salvage are collected once a fortnight at the same time, but this period is sometimes extended owing to public holidays, breakdowns or other exceptional circumstances.

A weekly collection of house refuse should be restored as early as possible, but until additional vehicles and labour are available, this is not possible. In addition to the removal of house refuse approximately 250 pail closets are emptied weekly, and 90 ash-pits are emptied on the average every three months, this work being performed by hired haulage.

Disposal. House refuse is disposed of by tipping on land in Newgate, where the Council has purchased $38\frac{1}{2}$ acres of peat land for this purpose. The contents of the pails are disposed of through market gardeners for manurial purposes. Approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the refuse tip is still requisitioned by the Air Ministry as a dump for wrecked aircraft.

Salvage. All the materials collected as salvage by the refuse collectors are sorted, graded and prepared for sale at the salvage building on the refuse tip. This building houses two hand operated paper baling machines and, for the time being, garages the mobile hydraulic tin baler.

The tip attendants also pick out useful materials from the tip to add to those already separated by householders.

The reclamation of waste places additional work on the employees who were fully occupied in pre-war days when no sorting took place, and as no extra labour has been employed the work of sorting the refuse cannot be carried out as efficiently as one would like.

STAFF.

There were two changes in the staff of the Department during the year. Mr. L. N. Brunskill resigned in February, 1945, and his position was filled by Mr. T. B. Tremethick in October, 1945. Mrs. E. Palmer, Temporary Clerk, also resigned in August, 1945, and her position was filled by Mrs. G. E. Bennett, to each of whom I should like to express my appreciation of the help they gave me and at the same time acknowledge the willing co-operation of my colleagues in other Departments.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. LANCASTER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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